this project which include studies on market assessment and consumer behaviour, product processing, evaluation of market potential, publicity using electronic and print media for creating consumer awareness and organization of exhibitions/ seminars.

Government is also implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, "National Horticulture Mission" under which funds are provided for setting up of vermi-compost units @ 50% of the cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 30,000/- per beneficiary.

(b) Does not arise.

PM's scheme for development of agriculture sector

†606. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the month of May, 2007 the Prime Minister had announced a scheme of rupees 25,000 crores for expenditure under a new system for the development of agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any effective action plan has also been formulated in order to utilize the above mentioned amount; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The National Development Council's resolution dated the 29th May, 2007 has identified the need for introducing a new Additional Central Assistance scheme to be administered by the Ministry of Agriculture to incentivize the States to draw up plans for their agriculture sector more comprehensively. The scheme is being formulated.

Rain based farming

†607. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of agricultural land dependent on rains in the country;

(b) whether some concrete effort is being made by his Ministry to encourage rain-based dry farming in the State of Uttarakhand; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Out of 328.7 million hectare of geographical area of the country,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.